Applicant submits the within amendments as directed.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A method of [extinguishing] controlling a fire, comprising the steps of

a) providing an engine having an engine exhaust;

b) providing a blower, with an output port, connected to the engine [for providing an output air stream];

c) driving the blower [with the engine;

d) diverting engine exhaust into the air stream, and

e) directing] by the engine to provide an output stream of air through the output port;

d) removing at least part of the air stream from the blower[with the output hose at the fire]; and

e) directing the blower air stream to the fire by means of the output port.

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprises providing the blower with a blower housing, the step of [diverting] removing the [exhaust] air stream comprises [diverting] removing the [exhaust into blower] air stream from the housing before the blower output [hose] port.

3. (Amended) The method of Claim [1] 2, further comprises providing a Y-shaped valve which has an input leg and two output legs and wherein the step of [diverting comprises directing the exhaust through] removing comprises mixing the part of air stream and the engine exhaust before the input port of the Y-shaped valve; and directing the mixed air stream and engine exhaust into the input port of the Y-shaped valve.

4. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprises providing valve means, and [the step of] diverting [includes directing] the part of the air stream and engine exhaust [flow with] by the valve means.

5. (Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of diverting [further] comprises[providing means for] tapping into the blower [air stream] housing before the blower [exhaust] output port; the step of diverting the engine exhaust includes mixing the exhaust with the [tapped] part of the air stream and [moving] conveying the mixed [air] stream and engine exhaust through the valve means.

6. (Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of diverting further comprises [either diverting] directing, by the valve means, the mixed air and engine exhaust by the valve means [so as to divert the air exhaust selectively] alternatively to the blower output port

and outwardly as an exhaust stream removed from the air stream being propelled from the blower output port.

7. (Amended) A method of [starting back fires of the type required where there is a pre-existing fire] providing a controlled or backfire, comprising the steps of

a) starting a fire[,];

b) providing a device capable of producing an air stream;

c) producing the air stream[,] by means of the device;

d) directing the air stream at the fire, and

e) causing the fire to spread in a controlled manner.

[7] 8. (Amended) The method of Claim [6] 7, wherein the step of causing the fire to spread in a controlled manner comprises directing the fire toward [the prior] an ongoing uncontrolled fire.

[8] 9. (Amended) The method of claim [6] 7, further comprises providing an air output hose; directing the air stream with the air output hose.

[9] 10. (Amended) The method of claim [8] 9, further comprises providing a blower driven by an engine and creating the air stream by the blower engine.

[10] 11. (Amended) A [device for diverting gas] valve comprising[,]:

a) an [exhaust inlet,] input port and at least two [exhaust outlets,] output ports;

b) a planar valve member for selectively diverting [the] gas into [either the exhaust outlet or exhaust bypass; and

c) the valve comprises a] one of said two output ports;

c) said planar valve member pivotally connected at the junction of [the] said inlet and two exhaust outlet; and

d) means for pivotally moving said planar valve member from a first position to a second position to [alternatively] selectively block the flow of the gas [out of the] between said first or second exhaust [outlets] output ports.

[11] 12. (Amended) The device of Claim [10] 11, further comprising a valve rod and a pivot pin; said valve rod is pivotally connected to said pivot pin, said valve rod extending from said pin for manipulating said valve.

[12] 13. (Amended) The device of Claim [11] 12, further where in said valve member comprises a shutter body and the device further comprising a cable attached to said valve rod for moving said [valve] shutter body between said first and second positions.

[13] 14. (Amended) The device of Claim [12] 13, wherein said [inlet] input port and exhaust [outlets comprise] output ports are joined by a substantially Y-shaped valve and said device further comprises guide means secured to said pipe for guiding said cable.

15. (Amended) A device of the type for extinguishing fires[and], starting [back fires] backfires or a control burn, comprising:

a) [an] engine and blower means, said engine means operating said blower means to create an air stream[,];

b) an air output hose for directing said air stream at [a] the fire[or back fire,]; and

c) at least one hose for selectively diverting the exhaust into said air stream.

16. (Amended) The device of claim 15, further comprises a pipe; said hose comprises an exhaust delivery hose and [at] an exhaust output hose connected to said pipe, said exhaust delivery hoses connected to [the] said pipe and [the] said air blower means proximate said air output hose.

17. (Amended) A device according to Claim 16 wherein,

said pipe comprises an exhaust inlet, an exhaust outlet and an exhaust bypass, and

a valve for selectively diverting the exhaust into [one of the] said exhaust outlet or exhaust bypass.

20. (Amended) The device of claim 19, further [comprising] comprises a valve rod secured to said pivot pin and extending without said pipe.

21. (Amended) The pipe of claim 20, further [comprising] comprises a cable attached to [the] said valve rod for moving said valve shutter body from a first position, blocking the exhaust outlet to a second position blocking the exhaust bypass.

22. (Amended) The pipe of claim 23, further [comprising] comprises a bracket attached to said pipe, [the] said bracket having a guide for [the] said cable.

23. (Amended) The pipe of claim [24] 22, wherein said bracket is attached to [the] said exhaust bypass.

25. The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of mixing reduces the exterior temperature of housing parts of the blower and of the engine making the device safer to use.

26. The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of mixing comprises increasing the velocity of the mixed air and engine exhaust to thereby propel unsafe exhaust gases away from the user.

27. The method of Claim 5, where in the step of directing the mixed air and engine exhaust to the blower output port comprises increasing the output velocity of the gas stream from the blower output port for more efficient operation.